

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 24-35 for recognizing the patentable subject matter in claim 14. Claims 1-13, 15-23 and 36-45 presently stand rejected. Specifically, the claims stand rejected as follows:

Claims 16, 17 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph;

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18-22, 36-40, 42 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being "clearly" anticipated by Wang et al. (A Practical Triple-Mode Monoblock Bandpass Filter For Base Station Applications) (cited by Applicant);

Claims 1, 4, 7, 15, 16, 36-38, 40, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Ko et al. (JP 2001-060804 A);

Claims 3 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al.;

Claims 3, 6, 9-11, 13 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko et al.; and

Claims 8, 12, 17, 23 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. in view of Arakawa et al. (USP 6,020,800).

Additionally, claim 1 is objected to because of informalities.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections and requests favorable disposition of the application.

Argument

In regard to the objection to claim 1, Applicant has amended the claim consistent with the Examiner's suggestion. That is, claim 1 has been amended to recite "forming said dielectric material" instead of "filling said block with dielectric".

In regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Applicant has amended claims 16, 17 and 19 to clear up any antecedence issues. Withdrawal of this rejection is kindly requested.

In regard to the claim rejections based on prior art, Applicant has herewith filed a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to show prior invention.

In particular, Applicants note that the earliest of the prior art references relied on by the Examiner, i.e., the Ko reference, was published on March 6, 2001. Further, both the Ko and the Wang references are prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) only. Accordingly, it is possible to remove the Ko and Wang references as prior art by filing a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, showing that the subject matter of the present application was invented prior to the publication date of the Ko reference, March 6, 2001. The Declaration filed herewith provides such a showing and, accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-13, 15-23 and 36-45 should be withdrawn.

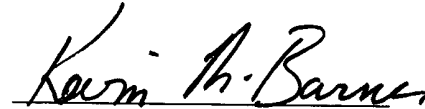
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims 1-45, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 09/987,353

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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